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Symmes Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes 01/31/2005

MINUTES

SYMMES NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SNAC)

MEETING OF January 31, 2005 ; Town Hall Annex, 1st Floor Conference Room

SNAC MEMBERS PRESENT (alphabetical order): Sandi Bourgeois, Terry Dash (Chair), Elaine Duffy, Greg Jackmauh, Paul Morrison.

7:12 Call to Order.

7:13 We review previous action items from last meeting.

- Greg asks if we have received info on his ongoing conversation with Terry. None of us have received the email(s) under discussion.
- Greg reports on problems he sees with the Symmes project. He points out that SNAC has to be working on the big issues and not to get caught up in details. As for the development as a whole, he points out that the number of units, 265, planned for the development is unacceptable; the scale too large and incompatible with the neighborhood.
- Separately, as for the NPP, Greg points to the example of trucks coming down Hospital Road onto Summer Street – and he returns to the concept of a barrier to be placed to avoid an accident. He feels that this important point did not get adequately addressed in this process of putting together the NPP – as an example of a very site specific step to protect the neighborhood. He points out that the process of creating the NPP with Fish is not encouraging; and that the neighbors should not have to be instructing Fish in how to put this NPP together, and that Fish's expertise should be moving this along in real concrete site-specific ways. He asks, as another example of the lack of detail, how the building will be taken down. Further, he notes concern that SNAC has no "legal role" in the process of creating the NPP – and thus no teeth on issues.

8:15 Terry arrives.

- After a summary of the current conversation, she asks what will we do if we are not happy with the NPP? Greg asks if the NPP is really protecting the neighborhood? Terry asks about the legal leg that we would stand on if we wanted to stop the Special Permit.
- We discuss what is the level of detail that we need in the NPP? And we discuss what is the legal recourse. Greg notes that individuals or other groups (SNAC or outside SNAC) could pose a legal challenge to the development. Terry suggests that individuals could go and find lawyers who could comment on SNAC's legal standing.

Terry comments on Tom Murray who co-authored an NPP in Cambridge. Kevin O'Brien had suggested to her that there could be money for this kind of consulting. But we need to make the argument for it. Terry will contact Tom Murray and invite him to our next meeting, and will also contact Kevin O'Brien to see if he can authorize money for Tom Murray's consultant fees

➤• SNAC members will review NPP version 04 that is about to come out from Patrick at Fish. We will meet with Tom asap.

9:40 Adjourn.

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Draft Minutes for Review: Submitted – Paul Morrison 3/4/05